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*An Account of Algeria, or the French Provinces in Africa.*

[From Official Documents.]

BEFORE proceeding to describe the present extent and condition of the French provinces in Africa, it may be interesting to review the events which led to their acquisition, and the circumstances by which it was accompanied. So far back as the year 1520, in the reign of Francis I. the French entered into a treaty with the Dey of Algiers, which conferred upon them the exclusive privilege of fishing for coral on the coast of that country, and the permission to export annually a certain quantity of grain, and other produce. An association of merchants was formed at that time, which was known, as late as 1799, under the name of the "African Company." The first establishment founded by this body was the Bastion de France, situated between Algiers and Tunis, at about 300 miles from the former, and 126 miles from the latter place. This, however, was abandoned in the year 1690, on account of its offering no shelter for shipping, and a new station was founded at La Calle, about 12 miles to the eastward, which rose into a place of considerable importance, and continued to flourish until the year 1799, when the seizure of the property of the company, at the commencement of the expedition to Egypt, forced the inhabitants to abandon the town. All that they left behind was given over to pillage and destruction. In 1807, the French colonies were ceded by the regency of Algiers to the English, and were not restored to France until the general peace in 1816. The coral fishery then revived, and continued in full vigour until June 1827, when a public insult, offered by the Dey to the French consul, added to numerous violations of treaties and long-established rights, caused a sudden rupture between the two countries. The abandonment of La Calle, and its destruction by the Algerines, immediately took place. For three years the French blockaded the town of Algiers, but without success; the Dey resisted all overtures, and in one instance even fired upon a vessel bearing a flag of truce. At length, in the early part of the year 1830, the French government equipped a very large army (amounting in August to 37,357 men), which aroused the jealousy of the English government. Explanations were demanded, and, after a long correspondence, conducted with much evasion on the part of the French government, it was avowed, "that the king, no longer confining his projects to obtaining reparation for the particular wrongs done to France, was determined to turn to the advantage of all Christendom the expedition for which he was ordering the preparations to be made; and his majesty adopted, as the object and recompence of his efforts, the complete destruction of piracy—the total abolition of Christian slavery—and the suppression of the tribute which Christian powers pay to the regency." At the same time he disclaimed all personal interest, and expressed a desire, in the event of a dissolution of the Algerine government, "to concert with his allies for the purpose of deciding what should be the new order of things which might be substituted with the greatest benefit to Christendom for the system destroyed." Several remonstrances were offered, but eventually the expedition sailed, and, after a short resistance, the Dey capitulated on the 5th July 1830.

This success, however, gave the French only a single town; beyond

its walls they possessed no dominion, and the general hostility of the natives rendered their position full of difficulty and danger; it therefore became necessary for them to extend their conquests in order to maintain what they had already acquired. The subsequent progress of the French army is well known: after meeting with many reverses, and sustaining with great bravery very severe losses, it obtained, by the treaty of Tafna, executed with Abd-el-Kader, on 30th May 1837, an acknowledgment on his part of the sovereignty of France in Africa, with a definition of the limits of its dominion in the provinces of Oran and Algiers. The capture of Constantine on the 13th October, in the same year, accompanied by the destruction of the army and government of Bey Ahmed, completed the conquest of the remainder of the regency; all hostilities have now ceased, and France is occupied in securing her sway by the extension of civilization, the establishment of the means of internal communication, and the active promotion of commerce and national industry.

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The regency of Algiers extended from the States of Tunis on the east, to the empire of Morocco on the west. Its boundary on the north was the Mediterranean; on the south the desert of Ssahhra. The Atlas chain of mountains traverses its whole length, running parallel with the coast; but descending from it to the sea, there are several parallel chains gradually diminishing in height: the last of them is called the Lesser Atlas.

Under the Turkish government the regency was divided into the four provinces of Oran, Constantine, Titery, and Algiers. The three former were beylicks, and governed by a Bey, who was a lieutenant of the Dey. The first, which was the most westerly, was bounded on the south by the Lesser Atlas, and was narrow in proportion to its length. The province of Constantine, which was the most eastern, was of about the same length, but its breadth was much greater. The province of Titery, which lay between the two former, extended from north to south on the several ranges of heights intersected by the Scheliff and its affluents. The limits of the province of Algiers were less certain, and depended upon the constantly fluctuating power of the Dey.

The present limits of the French possessions in Oran and Algiers were fixed by the Treaty of Tafna. In Constantine they are undefined; and Titery is left under the sovereignty of the Emir Abd-el-Kader.

In Algiers the boundaries are, on the east, the river Chiffa, and a line drawn from the confluence of that river with the Mazafran, enclosing Coleah and its territory; on the south, the summit of the first mountains, with the whole of the territory belonging to the tribes which inhabit them; and on the west the province of Constantine. The part to which, as yet, the occupation has more or less extended, consists of an almost isolated triangular cliff rising from the sea-shore, upon which the town of Algiers is built; of the plain of Métidja, running from north-east to south-west; and of the chain of the Lesser Atlas. The plain of Métidja is from 50 to 55 miles in length, and from 18 to 21 miles in breadth; it is well cultivated in the parts near the mountains, and marshy in the lower parts, and is but thinly inhabited. The northern side of the Lesser Atlas is covered with coppice and under-wood, principally consisting of the dwarf oak and mastich-tree.

None of the streams which flow through the territory of Algiers are or can be made navigable; most of them are but mountainous torrents flowing from the Lesser Atlas, and become dried up in summer. Some, however, as the Arrach and Mazafran, may become important for the purposes of irrigation.

The climate on the coast varies little from year to year. There are generally three seasons,—the temperate, which lasts from March to June, when the weather is fine and very agreeable in the neighbourhood of Algiers; the hot, from July to November, when the ground is dried up, the springs fail, and the whole country is scorched by the sun; and, lastly, the rainy season, which prevails from December to February, but is frequently interrupted by fine days. Fogs are common in the plain, but not at Algiers. The prevalent winds are the north and north-west, and the windy season is from November to April. The Simoon, here called Khamsin, is often experienced, and is most frequent in the month of September. The only two towns of size or importance in this province, besides Algiers, are Blidah and Coleah. The former is situated 36 miles S.W. of Algiers, and contained 7,000 inhabitants previous to the earthquake in 1825, which destroyed a large portion of the town. At present, however, it does not contain half that number. Coleah, to the north of Blidah, and west of the plain of Métidja, contains from 2,000 to 3,000 inhabitants.

The parts of the province of Oran which France has reserved are the towns of Mostaganem and Mazagran, with their territories, which are small, but situated on the coast; the towns of Oran and Arzew, with a district bounded on the east by the river Macta and the marsh in which it rises; on the south by a line drawn from that marsh, passing by the southern shore of the lake Sebkha to the river Salado (Oued-el-Maloh) in the direction of Sidi-Said, and thence to the sea.

There are two ports, Arzew and Mers-el-Kebir, the latter of which will admit the largest ships of war. The only considerable rivers in the reserved territory are the Rio Salado (Oued-el-Malah) and the Habrah. To the eastward, however, is the Scheliff, which is the largest river in Algeria. The climate is healthy in the environs of Oran. The prevailing winds are the N.W. and N.E. Hurricanes are frequent in the winter, but the simoon is rarely felt. The principal towns are Oran, which is about five miles from the port of Mers-el-Kebir; Arzew, which is of great importance as a port; Mostaganem, 25 miles by sea east of Arzew, containing, at the last census, 2,325 resident inhabitants, and 1,800 native auxiliaries; and Mazagran, five miles to the west of Mostaganem.

Of the three beylicks, the most extensive, the richest, and the most important, was that of Constantine, or the eastern. It is bounded on the east by the regency of Tunis, on the west by the provinces of Titery and Algiers, and on the south has no boundary, but extends to the desert of Ssahhra. The length, following the sinuosities of the coast, is about 390 miles; its breadth sometimes 600, but may be stated to average 255 miles. The principal ports are Bougie, Bona, La Calle, Djigelli, Collo, and Stora; of which the three last are not at present occupied by the French. Several rivers intersect this province, the largest is the Seybouse, which is navigable for a considerable distance from the sea. The climate varies greatly in different parts, even in

those not very distant from each other; there is sometimes snow at Constantine in the month of May, whilst the thermometer at Bona stands at 90° of Fahrenheit. The most prevalent winds are the N. and N. E., except at the two equinoxes, when the S. W. and N. W. set in suddenly, with heavy rains and storms. These generally occur in autumn, and sometimes last from September to the end of December. Constantine is not only the largest, but the most thickly peopled province of the regency. Besides the sea-ports already mentioned, there are several inland towns. Constantine, beyond the Lesser Atlas, 120 miles S. W. of Bona; Milah, containing from 3,000 to 4,000 inhabitants, 30 miles N. W. of Constantine; Setif, 90 miles E. S. E. of Constantine, on the road to Algiers; all flourishing towns, with several others less known. To the south is also Biscara, at 18 days' march from Constantine, with which a trade in corn and oil is carried on by means of caravans; and still further, beyond the Atlas, at 32 days' march from Constantine, is Tuggurt, situated in the desert. This town is the entrepôt for commerce with the interior of Africa, grain and European productions being exchanged for gold-dust, slaves, ostrich-feathers, and dates. Most of the tribes inhabiting this province unite agriculture to their pastoral pursuits. The fertility of the soil has long been remarkable; Strabo and Pliny bear testimony to it. Maize and millet are abundant; tobacco, the vine, and the olive, are cultivated with success. Cotton was formerly grown, and the soil is favourable to the mulberry-tree.

With regard to the population of these provinces, no well-founded estimate can be given. The town and suburbs of Algiers contained, in February 1838, 28,962 inhabitants, of whom 7,575 were Christians, 12,322 Mohammedans, 6,065 Jews, and about 3,000 Kabaiies, Mozabites, Biskris, Negroes, &c., to whom the census had not extended. The total European population of Algeria in 1837, exclusive of the military, was 16,770, of whom 9,824 resided in Algiers, 3,805 in Oran, 2,622 in Bona, 415 in Bougie, and 104 in Mostaganem. Of the total numbers, 6,592 were French, 2,193 English, 5,189 Spaniards, 1,983 Italians, and 782 Germans. The number of Spaniards has increased much more rapidly since 1830 than that of the French.

During the time of the deys, or pachas, as they were more generally called, the government was maintained solely by means of the militia, to which only Turks, Coulouglis (the children of Turkish fathers by Algerine mothers), and renegade Christians, were admitted; the Moors and Arabs were entirely excluded. The dey was elected by the captains of militia, generally after a revolt of that body, and the assassination of his predecessor. The province of Algiers was divided into seven outhans, or districts, the government of which was immediately under the agha, or commander of the troops. Under him were the kaid, or political officers, and the kadis, or ministers of justice; and under the former were the scheiks, or chiefs of the several tribes. The other provinces were governed by beys, who were appointed by the dey, and removable at his will. In the beylicks the organization was the same, but the kaid, or commander of the troops, was called hakem. The task of government under this system was by no means easy. The Arab tribes who inhabited the plains acknowledged the power of the dey only when exposed to its violence, or desirous of obtaining its protection; and hence arose a continual contest,

accompanied with bloody chastisements upon the rebellious tribes. The Kabailles or Berbers, who are the remains of the aboriginal population, were still more refractory; they dwelt chiefly in the mountainous regions, and were much more attached to the soil than the Arabs, living in huts, cultivating the olive, and much farther advanced in agriculture and the arts than the Arabs. The greater part paid no tribute, and the rest only as much as they pleased; the sovereignty of the pacha over them was merely nominal. The force of regular Turkish troops in the reGENCY at the time of the French occupation was 15,000.

At present the administration is entrusted to a governor-general and a board of subordinate officers, whose organization somewhat resembles that of the French political system. The towns of Algiers, Oran, and Bona, have each a municipal council, consisting in the first of ten French, six Musulme, and three Jews; and in the latter two of five French, three Musulme, and one Jew. The religion of the two latter classes is tolerated and protected by the government. It is true that a great number of the native mosques have been destroyed, and one which was voluntarily abandoned has been converted into a Christian church; but it is stated that there still remain a sufficient number for the wants of the population. The Jews were here, as elsewhere, a despised and persecuted race; they were not admitted into some towns, but in others were very numerous. In Algiers, according to the census of 1838, they formed one-fifth of the inhabitants.

The ancient Musulman judicature has been maintained for the trial of causes in which the natives alone are concerned, but French tribunals have been established, in which all causes between two foreign parties, or between a native and a foreign party, must be tried. The natives may use these courts if they prefer them. The muphtis and kadis of the native courts are appointed by the governor, and paid by the state: the ancient laws and forms are retained, but the judgment requires the countersign of the French procureur-general. Musulman assessors are appointed to each of the French courts, who are called in whenever one of the parties concerned in the cause is a native. There is also a Hebrew tribunal, consisting of three rabbins appointed by the governor, who have authority in religious matters, and in civil causes when the parties voluntarily come before them. The French courts consist of a tribunal of First Instance at each of the towns of Algiers, Bona, and Oran, with a Tribunal of Commerce, and a Superior Court at the former town. The following is a statement of the number of causes brought before the courts at Algiers from the 1st of October 1834 to the 31st of December 1837; the returns from Bona and Oran have not been received.

In the tribunal of *First Instance* :—

	Criminal Causes.	Civil Causes.	Correctional and Simple Police.
Causes entered for trial . . . .	2,084	4,815	..
„ Tried . . . .	1,543	4,104	2,947
Causes in which the parties were—			
Both Christians . . . .	1,405	2,893	1,568
Christians and Musulmen . . .	63	631	..
„ Jews . . . .	89	281	..
Musulmen . . . .	1	28	983
Jews . . . .	19	108	396
Musulmen and Jews . . . .	16	163	„

In the *Superior Court*, civil causes entered, 449, judgment given in 365; of which 222 were between Christians, 110 between Christians and Musulmen or Jews, and 33 between individuals of the latter races.

Criminal causes entered, 107; persons charged, 154; acquitted, 46; condemned, all males, 108; of whom 61 were Christians, 36 Musulmen, and 11 Jews; 27 were French, 39 Europeans of other nations, and 42 natives.

The number of persons confined in the civil prison of Algiers during the same period was 890, of whom 533 were discharged without judgment, and 357 were tried. Of these 114 Europeans were condemned, and 30 acquitted; 153 Musulmen and 20 Jews were condemned, and 27 Musulmen and 13 Jews were acquitted: 269 were cases of theft, 16 of murder and attempts at murder, and 27 of cutting and wounding.

The number of causes tried before the Tribunal of Commerce was 3,377, of which 2,871 were between Europeans, 419 between Europeans and natives, and 87 between natives. There were 41 bankruptcies at Algiers during the same period.

During the five years, from 1832 to 1836, 4,308 individuals, of whom 72 were natives, have been brought before the military tribunals; 1,367 were acquitted, and 182 condemned to death, of whom 64 were executed. The number was much reduced in the two last years of the period. In 1833 it was 1,081; in 1834, 1,141; in 1835, 848; and in 1836, 491. The number of troops, French and native auxiliaries, in each year of the French occupancy, were,—

1831	17,939		1835	30,885
1832	22,431		1836	31,450
1833	27,762		1837	42,067*
1834	31,863			

The expense of this force in 1837 was 1,593,086*l.*, which is divided, in the French account, into expenses foreseen, amounting to 839,800*l.*, and expenses unforeseen, amounting to 753,285*l.* A comparison of the expense on peace and war establishments in that year is not stated; but in the preceding year, when the total charge amounted to 1,011,966*l.*, the excess of charge on account of the French troops, consequent upon a state of war, is given at 424,713*l.*, and the payment of the auxiliaries at 96,871*l.*

The Musulman religious institutions consist of the Mecca and Medina, the Marabouts or Zaouia, and the Mosques. The first is general to all Musulman countries, and took its origin in the early days of Islamism; its objects are to collect and convey to the Holy Cities the revenues arising from the properties alienated (*habous*) and donations made for that purpose: a portion of these revenues is also applied in Algiers to the relief of the poor, the redemption of Musulman slaves, and the maintenance of three Hanéfite mosques. The marabouts are edifices containing the tomb of a saint, in which pious Musulmen purchase the privilege of being interred: their number is very considerable, but only nineteen possess property. There are two classes of Musulmen in Algiers—the Turks are Hanéfites, and the Arabs are Malekites,—the former have 14 mosques, and the latter have 92. The Andelous is a charitable institution, originally founded

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\* Of these 5,825 were native auxiliaries.

for the relief of the poor Moors who fled from Spain, and is maintained for the assistance of their descendants. The Schorffas form another class of charitable establishments, possessing a small amount of property; but their objects are less known. There is also the Beit-el-Mahl, an officer charged with the protection of the interests of orphans, absentees, and of those of the state in certain kinds of property. The total revenues of the Mecca and Medina, in 1836, were about 4,000*l.*, arising from 1,419 properties of various kinds. Those of the mosques and other institutions were about 8,000*l.*, arising from 2,756 properties; the expenditure of the latter was about 6,880*l.* Only about half the mosques and marabouts are now devoted to purposes of worship, and a considerable portion of the property belonging to them has been destroyed or appropriated to the public service. Since the occupation these institutions have all been under the regulation of the French authorities, by whom the peculation which formerly existed in their management has been checked, and the revenue considerably increased.

Before 1830, the number of schools, Moorish and Hebrew, was considerable, but the instruction afforded in them consisted only of writing and reading the text of the Koran, or the Bible, and this was entirely confined to boys, the females being brought up in total ignorance. Since that period the number has much decreased, owing to emigration caused by the French occupation; but there are still at Algiers from 20 to 25 such schools, conducted upon the same system. The French Government has established a department of public instruction, and has done much to supply the wants of the European population, and to introduce an improved system of education among the natives. A college has been founded at Algiers, in which the French and Arabic languages, the classics, geography, history, and the physical and mathematical sciences are taught. The number of students, in 1837, was 115. There have been established at the same place an Arabic chair, attended, in 1837, by 40 students; a school of mutual instruction in French, writing and arithmetic, containing 172 pupils; and a Mauro-French school, conducted by a native, and attended by 60 Moorish youths, for the purpose of learning the French language, and preparing to receive the elementary instruction given in the other schools. At Oran and Bona, also, there have been established schools of mutual instruction, and schools for young Jews; the former class contains 110 pupils at the two places, and the latter 65. At Delhy-Ibrahim, about nine miles from Algiers, there is also a school for mutual instruction, containing 52 scholars; and at Kouba another has been commenced. The schools of this class contain a considerable number of Jews, but few Moors, whose absence is attributable to the presence of the Jews, and an apprehension of proselytism. So far does this fear operate, that Moorish children have refused to wear the decorations of merit which they have obtained in the schools, lest they should be suspected of having become Christians. The Arabs have not yet acquired any desire for instruction; but experience shews that they have no insuperable aversion to the French language. In the school at Delhy-Ibrahim, two-thirds of the scholars are French children, and one-third are Arabs in the auxiliary corps of Zouaves. A school for



Jewish girls, and another for Moorish adults, have been established at Algiers; the former contains 68, and the latter 25 scholars. There are also several private schools in each of the towns already mentioned. The total number of scholars in the French schools, founded since 1830, are as follows:—

In 1832 . . .	173	In 1835 . . .	644
1833 . . .	537	1836 . . .	796
1834 . . .	563	1837 . . .	1,202

Of this last number 885 are Europeans, viz., 556 boys and 329 girls; 90 are Moors, and 227 are Jews, of whom 81 are girls. The native schools, in the occupied districts, contain 1,085 boys, of whom 445 are Moors, and 640, or two-thirds, are Jews.

It is difficult to determine what was the real state of agriculture in this country before 1830. Near the towns it was not pursued at all; the fields were left uncultivated, and the olive grew wild without grafting. The plain of Métidja, near Algiers, presents in several parts traces of cultivation in former times; but its insalubrity, and its proximity to the Turks, prevented any great extension of culture. In the French expeditions, however, both to the west and east, particularly to the latter, remarkable proofs presented themselves of the attention bestowed upon agriculture by the Arabs, and especially by the Kabails. Its progress, since the conquest by the French, has been very rapid in Algiers, but less so in the other provinces. The extent of land in the communes already formed within the province of Algiers, in 1837, was 48,714 acres; of which 16,644 were under cultivation, 10,337 were not fit for cultivation, and 21,734 were fit, but as yet were uncultivated. Of the cultivated land, 4,845 acres were cropped with wheat, and 4257 with barley; 883 were planted with vines, and 5000 acres were meadow.

At Oran the country is unfavourable; but of 660 acres fit for cultivation 377 are cultivated; the total extent at present occupied is only 1,100 acres. At Mostaganem, out of 1,380 acres 1,050 are cultivated. At Bona, out of 29,490 acres, of which 20,717 are fit for cultivation, only 1,433 are cultivated, although this province has for a long time enjoyed greater tranquillity, and possessed a larger garrison than any of the other provinces. The French report attributes this want of agricultural activity to the circumstance of a large extent of land being held by a few colonists—17,131 acres by 14 individuals—of which extent only 493 acres are cultivated; while out of 201 acres held by 12 proprietors, 125 are cultivated. In Algiers there are very few large proprietors. In this province the government established a nursery garden in 1832, for the purpose of propagating the trees and plants most useful, and best adapted to the soil and climate. Its present extent is 55 acres, and in 1838 it contained 87,038 young trees and shrubs.

The average price of wheat at Algiers, in 1837, was 7s. 7½d. per sack of 100 lbs.; and of barley, 4s. 0¾d. Flour of the first quality was 28s. 11d. per barrel of 193 lbs.; bread 1s. 8d. per 11 lbs.; beef and mutton 3½d. per lb.; fowls 1s. a piece; potatoes 4s. 2d. a cwt.; wood for fuel 3s. 9d. the ass load; wine 45s. for 50 gallons. The other markets are generally higher. The consumption of cattle by the army, in 1837, was as follows: 8,290 oxen, 2,195 cows, and 2,049 sheep and goats:

these were almost wholly the produce of the country. The consumption of the civil population of Algiers during the same year was 7,160 oxen and cows, 370 calves, 27,323 sheep, 2,743 lambs, and 782 pigs. The quantity of wheat and wheat-flour brought into the same town, during 1837, was equal to 65,280 quarters; of which, 28,275 quarters were imported from abroad, 10,048 quarters entered coastwise, 5,278 quarters brought in by land, and 21,676 quarters consisted of flour imported from France and Italy. The quantity of olive oil offered for sale in the same year was 150,150 gallons, of which only 2,005 gallons were brought in by sea.

A people which had so little communication with foreign nations, and was so deficient in the arts and sciences of civilized life, could possess but little commerce or native manufactures; the latter consisted almost entirely of articles of clothing. Woollen-stuffs, used for the long-hooded cloaks, and for tunics worn by the natives, were woven by the Arab women in their tents. All other manufactures were carried on in the towns and large villages, some of which were renowned for the beauty of their productions, consisting of silk-stuffs, carpets, muslins embroidered with gold or silver, morocco leather, and fringes for clothing and the furniture of horses. These, with the trades connected with building, the working of metals, and the wants of civil life and of war, were the sole industrial occupations under the Regency. In the towns occupied by the French some of the above manufactures have declined, others have been greatly improved by the imitation of foreign productions. There existed but few water-mills, and those very badly constructed; the corn was usually ground in the towns, and the moving power was supplied by horses. It is stated that the Kabailes, who are adepts in working metals, possess the art of smelting iron, which they extract from the mountains in the neighbourhood of Bougie; but this requires confirmation. It does not, as yet, appear that any mines have been worked, although some are known to exist—of iron, in the mountains between Algiers and Bougie; of gold, at Frendah; and of copper, between Blidah and Médéah. The French Government has not yet undertaken to work them, but will not permit other parties to do so. There existed in the towns a certain number of fondouks and bazaars, in which the producers of the interior and the merchants of foreign goods openly sold their wares. Outside the towns there were established, in inhabited spots, conventional markets, in which the Arabs met, always armed, to traffic. Since the French occupation, the interior of the towns having become more secure than the country, the Arabs attend the city markets. Traffic of all kinds was carried on by the Moors and Jews; the latter alone dealt in the precious metals, and were parties to almost every transaction. Credit and all substitutes for specie were unknown, except, perhaps, among the Jews in commerce between themselves. The various handicrafts were, for the most part, divided among several classes, who possessed in some degree the exclusive privilege of exercising them. The Mozabites were butchers, millers, bakers, and bagnio-keepers. The Biskris were porters and guards in the shops. The negroes, generally free, but sometimes slaves, were porters, assistants to masons, and whitewashed the houses. The Kabailes furnished the day-labourers, gardeners, and workers in the

fields. The Moors were tailors, embroiderers, weavers, dyers, shoemakers, and turners. The Jews were goldsmiths, jewellers, lapidaries, money-changers, &c. Notwithstanding the changes caused by the immigration of Europeans, the same divisions of employment continue among the natives, and some have even been confirmed by recent regulations.

Commerce, under the Regency, was exposed to great difficulties, and could only be carried on with the consent of the Government. The duties on importation nominally varied from 5 to 10 per cent., according to the origin of the goods, and the degree of favour accorded to them by conventions. But these were not always respected, and the foreigner, always considered as an enemy, often escaped ruin solely by means of the presents with which he purchased the protection of the Prince and the authorities. The State monopolized the greater portion of the productions of the country; exportation could only be carried on by means of licenses, the charge for which was proportioned to the quantities to be exported, and constituted therefore an actual export duty. No records of the amount of commerce thus carried on were kept, but the following facts, in some degree, shew its extent. Before 1789 the French African Company purchased considerable quantities of grain upon the coast, principally in the province of Constantine, which it sold in the south of France, Spain, and Italy; this was one of its greatest sources of profit. From 1792 to 1796, the southern provinces of France were supplied with corn from the Regency. From the port of Arzew alone, from 250 to 300 cargoes were annually imported; and, in 1814, 40,000 oxen were shipped thence for the use of the English army in Spain. The imports of the Regency at that period amounted to about 88,000*l.*, of which half was brought from France. In 1822 they had risen to 260,000*l.*, of which France supplied 60,000*l.* The imports consisted of silk, woollen and cotton stuffs, raw silk, colonial produce, hardwares, haberdashery, jewellery, iron and steel. Cotton goods, of which the consumption was considerable, had long been furnished exclusively by Great Britain; the silks were brought from Italy; the woollens from France and England; coarse hardware chiefly from the latter country; and the trade in the remaining articles was equally divided between England and France. The exports consisted of grain, cattle, oil, wool, hides, and wax. They had long been declining, and in 1822 did not exceed 60,000*l.* It is stated, however, that in 1829, one merchant shipped from Oran to Gibraltar 24,500 quarters of wheat and barley, and as much more to other parts, together with 3,000 head of cattle.

Since the conquest the French have established a system of customs, of which the following is an abstract. No importation is prohibited; all French goods, and those of foreign countries not produced in France, or necessary for food, agricultural pursuits, or building, are admitted duty-free. Foreign merchandise, not prohibited in France, is charged with one-fourth of the duty fixed upon importation into that country when it is imported from foreign ports, and with one-fifth when imported from a French port. Articles prohibited in France pay a duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*. Merchandise exported to France pays no duty; exports to other countries pay the export duty fixed by the French tariff, excepting grain and flour, upon which there is no duty.

With respect to navigation, the intercourse with France and the coasting trade are confined to French vessels. The African sandales, however, of less than 30 tons, are admitted to the latter. The tonnages on foreign vessels are 2 francs per ton; French vessels are free.

The Customs' accounts of imports and exports in Algiers cannot be much relied upon before the year 1835. In 1831, however, they gave an importation of 260,160*l.*, and an exportation of 59,184*l.* In 1835 the former had risen to 671,149*l.*, and in 1837 it amounted to 1,322,210*l.* The exports were 103,914*l.* in 1835, and 117,867*l.* in 1837. Of the imports it was estimated that 400,000*l.* was for the use of the army. Of the merchandise entered for consumption in 1837, five-eighths were imported from France, and three-eighths from foreign countries. In 1836 the proportion was as 11 to 8, and in 1835 as 8 to 7, shewing an increased proportion of imports from France. With regard to the articles imported in 1837, 260,610*l.* consisted of farinaceous food; 219,648*l.* of woven goods; 156,950*l.* of liquors; 107,010*l.* of live animals; 69,472*l.* of the produce of animals; 66,132*l.* of timber; and 42,726*l.* of colonial produce. The importation of woven goods from France has increased in a greater proportion than that from foreign countries; the former amounted to 33,259*l.* in 1835, and to 75,100*l.* in 1837; the latter to 78,670*l.* in 1835, and to 128,943*l.* in 1837. The importation of French cotton goods had doubled within the same three years from 12,630*l.*, in 1835, to 26,160*l.* in 1837; while that of foreign cottons had only risen from 87,212*l.* to 100,841*l.* The French manufacturers have succeeded in imitating the cotton stuffs used by the Arabs, which were formerly peculiar to England; and to promote this competition the French Government has supplied them with patterns of the required stuffs. The import trade of the several ports was as follows in 1837:—Algiers, 696,197*l.*; Oran, 352,184*l.*; Bona, 259,209*l.*; and Bougie, 14,619*l.* The trade of the ports of Arzew, La Calle, and Mers-el-Kebir was inconsiderable, and is not included in the above. The total duties on imports amounted to 33,385*l.* Of the total exports in 1837, less than one-half, or 49,895*l.* out of 117,867*l.*, were destined for France. The chief indigenous productions exported were coral, to the value of 46,540*l.*; hides, 26,742*l.*; grain, 5,305*l.*; and wax, 4,128*l.* The export trade at Bona was 56,840*l.*; at Algiers, 35,700*l.*; at Oran, 23,939*l.*; and at Bougie, 1,384*l.* The above statements do not include the trade carried on between the ports occupied by the French and the ports belonging to the Arabs. The imports into the former from the latter amounted, in 1837, to 26,335*l.*; the exports to 12,479*l.* The inland trade with the Arabs cannot be accurately stated, but it was estimated, in 1837, at 200,000*l.* of Arab produce bought, and the same amount of European goods sold in return.

The number of vessels which entered the ports of Algiers in 1831 was 338; of which 123 were French, and 215 belonged to other foreigners. In 1837 the total number had risen to 3,365, measuring 228,077 tons; of these 1,129, measuring 100,202 tons, were French; 1,204, measuring 114,664 tons, were foreigners; and 1,032, measuring 13,211 tons, were Algerine sandales. The following was the number of ships which entered each port in the same year:—

	Vessels.	Tons.		Vessels.	Tons.	
Algiers . .	905 . .	74,762		Arzew . .	307 . .	9,474
Oran. . .	880 . .	64,006		Bougie . .	292 . .	14,424
Bona. . .	712 . .	61,385		Mostaganem	269 . .	4,026

The number of sandales registered, in 1837, in the Algerine ports already occupied, was 170, in those not occupied, 39; their total tonnage was 2,037; their crews, 1,186. The number of boats engaged in the coral fishery had risen from 62 in 1832 to 245 in 1836. The duties received in the latter year amounted to 9,688*l.* Of the 245 boats, 122 are Neapolitans, 79 Tuscans, 31 Sardinians, 1 Spanish, and only 10 French. All but 10 are stationed at Bona. The total revenue received by the French had risen from 37,188*l.*, in 1831, to 121,551*l.* in 1837. The several sources are as follows:—Customs and various taxes, 58,825*l.*; registration and state domains, 15,038*l.*; post-office and steam-vessels, 6,488*l.*; sale of gunpowder, 369*l.*; other revenues, applicable to municipal and other particular purposes, 40,850*l.* The combined municipal receipts of the towns of Algiers, Oran, and Bona, was estimated, for 1837, at 36,720*l.*; their expenditure at nearly the same sum.

The preceding account affords a necessarily brief view of the past and present condition of the French provinces in Algiers. For further information, the Report of the French Minister of War, laid before the Chamber of Deputies in February 1838, may be consulted. It is to be regretted, that this work does not afford the means of estimating the sacrifices which France has made to obtain these colonies; no statement is given of the sums spent, nor of the lives lost in the conquest; but the documents prove most clearly the importance which that country attaches to these possessions, and the advantages which they are likely to confer on French commerce and French power in the Mediterranean; and they shew more than enough to justify even a stronger feeling of jealousy than that expressed by the British Government in its despatches before the expedition in 1830. R.

## PROCEEDINGS OF STATISTICAL SOCIETIES.

### STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

*Fourth Ordinary Meeting, Monday, 18th February, 1839.*

Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., M.P., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were balloted for and elected Fellows—

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, Bart.  
John Robinson Maclean, Esq., C. E. 7, Delahay Street.  
Trevenen James, Esq., Castle Baynard.

The Report of the Auditors of the Society's Accounts for 1838, with the Balance-sheet of Receipts and Expenditure, were read. These documents will be appended to the Annual Report.

A Paper was read on the Statistics of the Populations of the Kingdoms of Saxony and Belgium. By W. R. Deverell, Esq. (*See page 103.*)

The following Gentlemen were proposed—

William A. Guy, M.B. Cantab. Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, King's College.  
Alexander Johnston, Esq., Bailie of the City of Glasgow.  
Bernard Hebler, Esq., 15, York Place, Portman Square.  
Henry Reeve, Esq., 9, Chapel Street, Grosvenor Place.  
Henry John Baxter, Esq., 12, Guildford Street, and Middle Temple.